

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6666

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 658

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC EI

SUBJ: INFORMAL MEETING OF EC FONMINS

1. EC FONMINS ARE MEETING APRIL 12/13 AT A BIG "COUNTRY" HOUSE
IN DUBLIN SUBURBS. OBJECTIVE IS TO ALLOW A COMPLETELY INFORMAL
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, WITH NOT EVEN STAFF PRESENT. THERE IS TO
BE NO PRESS IN ATTENDANCE, NO FORMAL CONFERENCE OUTPUT, NO
RECORD AND NO FORMAL AGENDA. (NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK MINISTERS
ARE BOUND TO TALK ABOUT MANY OF THE SAME SUBJECTS WHICH THEIR
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POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING AND WHICH WE REPORTED

IN DUBLIN 645 THROUGH 649.)

2. WE HAVE PRESSED HARD FOR A BRIEFING FROM FONMIN FITZGERALD AS SOON AS MEETING IS OVER. (NONE OF HIS STAFF WOULD BE ABLE TO BRIEF US URGENTLY, SINCE THEY WILL NOT HAVE ATTENDED MEETING.) HE HAS NOW REPLIED THAT HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO SEE US UNTIL LATER IN THE WEEK. MAIN PROBLEM, AS THE IRISH DESCRIBE IT, IS THAT FONMIN WILL BE LEAVING AT 0730 MONDAY FOR A FORMAL MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN LUXEMBOURG. HE WILL SEE US UPON HIS RETURN (WEDNESDAY AT THE EARLIEST). FITZGERALD SAYS HE HOPES WE WILL UNDERSTAND HIS PRACTICAL PROBLEM IN NOT SEEING US EARLIER. HE THEN ASKS US TO NOTE THAT WEEKEND MEETING IS TO BE EVEN MORE INFORMAL AND OPEN-ENDED THAN GYMNIC, WHICH IS OFTEN MENTIONED AS THE MODEL. GYMNIC HAD ONE MAIN SUBJECT, BUT THERE WILL BE NO SIMILAR DOMINANT TOPIC IN DUBLIN.

3. WE HAVE ASKED WHETHER THE IRISH, BY REPEATEDLY STRESSING THE "INFORMAL" NATURE OF THE MEETING, ARE TELLING US THAT THEY HAVE A CONCEPTUAL PROBLEM WITH THE IDEA OF GIVING US AN URGENT BRIEFING. THEY REPLY IN THE NEGATIVE AND SAY THAT THE PROBLEM IS PRACTICAL; THE "INFORMALITY" POINT IS "JUST AN ASIDE."

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE IRISH DO HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS AND ARE TRYING TO PUT US OFF WITHOUT CAUSING OFFENSE. FITZGERALD IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PERSON WHO COULD GIVE US A SPLENDID BRIEFING IN FIFTEEN MINUTES SUNDAY NIGHT. WE SUSPECT HE FEARS THAT THIS WOULD, IN THE EYES OF AT LEAST SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES, STRETCH THE IRISH GROUND RULES, WHICH ARE THAT THE MINISTERS CAN RUMINATE ALL THEY WANT WITH NO FEAR OF FINDING THEMSELVES QUOTED AND NO PRESSURE TO ARRIVE AT DECISIONS.
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